



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,  
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

Planning, Environment & Place-Making,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 55 6000

## **Council Meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) what revenue was returned from the sale of graves within this Authority in each of the financial years 2016 through to 2021 and (b) for a breakdown of this revenue in terms of graves on demand and those pre-purchased in advance.

### **Reply:**

Limerick City and County Council ceased the practice of allowing the pre-purchase of graves in the majority of cemeteries from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The only exceptions are Castlemungret and Ballingaddy Cemeteries.

Detail of the income of sales of graves for the period 2016 to 2021 inclusive is set out in the table below, together with a breakdown between sales at time of need and sales of pre-purchased graves.

Year	Income	Time of Need	Pre-purchased
2016	€652,645.69	€582,245.69	€70,400
2017	€647,987.17	€555,387.17	€92,600
2018	€587,028.98	€525,828.98	€61,200
2019	€516,170.65	€490,970.65	€25,200
2020	€451,981.32	€425,981.32	€26,000
2021	€581,056.57	€548,670.57	€32,386

**Nuala Gallagher**

**Director of Services**

**Planning, Environment & Place-Making**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## **COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

I will ask at the next Meeting how many housing applications have been removed, in total, to date due to failure to return the SSHA (Summary of Social Housing Assessments) form and if this accounts for the sudden drop in numbers of people on the housing waiting list as per the Chief Executives Report for November.

### **REPLY:**

214 housing applicants were closed following the SSHA 21, there was a variety of reasons why the applications were closed as listed below:

- 180 closed due to lack of response
- 11 over income threshold
- 7 no longer interested in Social Housing
- 7 RIP
- 3 Whereabouts unknown
- 2 Transferring Housing Authority
- 2 Change of circumstances
- 2 Left Administrative area.

The figures for the CE Report from Oct – Dec:

- 2447 in Oct 21
- 2074 in Nov 21 (down 373)
- 2109 in Dec 21 (up 35)

The figures change from closures of housing applications due to the SSHA, applicants being housed and applicants being approved for social housing, hence the list goes up and down all the time.

*Caroline Curley*

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Caroline Curley

Director of Service

Housing

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## **COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting how many houses and apartments have been bought by Limerick City and County Council using Compulsory Purchase Orders in the last two years.**

### **REPLY:**

The Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended), states that it is the duty of every owner and occupier of land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land does not become or does not continue to be a derelict site.

The Act also states that it shall be the duty of a local authority to take all reasonable steps (including the exercise of any appropriate statutory powers) to ensure that any land situate in their functional area does not become or continue to be a derelict site.

Since 2019, Limerick City and County Council has served 174 no. notices under Section 15 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended) to compulsorily acquire derelict properties.

As of 18th January 2021, a total of 121 no. properties have been compulsorily acquired and vested in Limerick City & County Council under Section 17/18 of the Act. There are also other cases at various stages of acquisition including applications lodged with An Bord Pleanála for determination on foot of objections received.

Of the 121 no. sites already acquired, these comprise of 130 no. housing units in varying stages of dereliction.

Through The Housing Act, 1966, the Council has used Compulsory Purchase Orders to acquire 6 no. units for social housing and two further units are due for vesting.

Gordon Daly  
Director of Service  
Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

20th January 2022



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## **COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting if Limerick City and County Council has hired a full-time Vacant Homes Officer and, if so, what duties have they been assigned.**

### **REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council has a full time Vacant Homes Officer position since 2018. The current post holder is Mr. David O'Grady. The post is based in the Property & Community Facilities Department of the Community, Culture & Tourism Directorate.

The Vacant Homes Officer provides advice and guidance on schemes and other measures available to property owners to support bringing vacant and derelict homes back into productive use. This may include signposting to the Buy & Renew Scheme, the Repair and Lease Scheme, the Living City Tax Initiative, energy and retrofit grants from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, and the Council's own Paint Scheme operational in towns and villages of the county.

The Vacant Homes Officer engages with property owners on their duties under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and is the line manager for the Area Inspectors working on Derelict Sites, Vacant Sites and Vacant Homes, and to the supporting administration staff.

Gordon Daly  
Director of Service  
Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate

20th January 2022



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Luimneach

Housing Support Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
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**Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to be held  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

**Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe**

I will ask at the next Meeting what the process is in relation to a property owner and their property failing a number of HAP inspections and any follow-up inspections:

- (a) Has the Council initiated any enforcement orders on private HAP rental properties in the past three years?
- (b) How does the Council respond to multiple failed inspections under the HAP/RAS Scheme?
- (c) Has the Council stopped any HAP payments to Landlord, due to the standards of a property, in the past three years?

**REPLY:**

- (a) The Council has initiated enforcement procedures on private rented houses.
- (b) **Improvement Letters** may be an appropriate initial response, where minor contraventions of the Regulations were noted following inspection.

An **Improvement Notice** can be served if one or more of the following criteria apply:

- (a) The conditions of the rented house are unacceptable and there are significant contraventions of legislation,
- (b) Where action needs to be taken in order to remedy conditions that are serious or deteriorating, or.
- (c) There is a history of non-compliance with other measures such as Improvement Letters.

Where a landlord fails to comply with an Improvement Notice, the inspector may serve a **Prohibition Notice** and may consider instituting legal proceedings

- (c) In the past three years the Council has stopped one HAP payments to a Landlord, due to the standards of a property.

**Caroline Curley**  
Director of Service Housing

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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## **MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 24TH JANUARY 2022**

### Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next Meeting has Limerick City and County Council completed fire safety inspections of apartment blocks in Limerick City in the past four years, including the following apartment buildings: Palmerstown Court, Strand Apartments, Mount Kenneth, Jutland Hall, Riverpoint, The Steeples, Brookfield Hall (Castletroy), The Park (Edward Street, Limerick).

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### Reply

Limerick City & County Council Fire Authority operates under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.

Responsibility for fire safety in buildings rests with the owners and occupiers of buildings. This is set out in Section 18 (2) of the Fire Services Act, which places a duty on every person having control over premises to take all reasonable measures to guard against the outbreak of fire on such premises and to ensure as far as reasonably practicable the safety of persons on the premises in the event of an outbreak of fire.

Limerick City and County Council implements a comprehensive programme of inspections under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003. The majority of the inspections under the Fire Services Act are as a result of complaints from the general public, pre-event inspections and pre-court inspections for licensing. Furthermore, the Fire Authority can request that owners and occupiers carry out their own Fire Safety Risk Assessment of their premises. Operational fire service personnel can also undertake out familiarisation visits to premises.

Limerick Fire Service has carried out 39 Inspections on 30 premises containing flats / apartments in Limerick over the last four years.

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Where a resident has any concerns regarding fire safety in their premises, they should contact the owner or management company in the first instance. Failing that, they may contact the Fire Department regarding the matter.

Signed: 

Date: 25/1/2022

**Kieran Lehane**  
**Director of Service**  
**National & Regional Shared Services Centre**





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## **Council Meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

I will ask at the next Meeting why has Limerick City and County Council raised the price of graves/plots by 25% and what is this increase being spent on.

### **Reply:**

Limerick City and County Council carried out a review of the charges for burial grounds in 2021. These charges had not been reviewed in the past six years.

Revenue from the sale of graves is used to support the operation and maintenance of the graveyard service.

**Nuala Gallagher**

**Director of Services**

**Planning, Environment & Place-Making**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**



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## **Council Meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

I will ask at the next Meeting when will the proposed Flood Relief Scheme for Castleconnell commence.

### **Reply:**

JBA/JB Barry Consulting Engineers (Joint Venture) were appointed to the Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme in June 2019 and the consultants have been progressing Stage I – Scheme Development & Design.

The Scheme is currently at Options Assessment with Cost Benefit Analysis and Multi-Criteria Analysis currently being progressed.

Once the Preferred Option is confirmed, the consultants will commence development of planning level design and preparation of the EIAR ahead of lodging a planning application. The consultant's current programme indicates that a planning submission will be made in Q4 2022.

**Nuala Gallagher**

**Director of Services**

**Planning, Environment & Place-Making**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**